

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-14, 16, and 18-24 were pending. Claims 25-26 have been added. Claims 1, 10, 11, 13, 22, and 23 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 6-14, 16, and 18-26 are pending.

In the present Office Action, claims 11, 13-14, 16, and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the amendments to claims 11 and 13, the above rejections are believed overcome.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Published Application 2001/0042187 ("Tremblay"). In addition, claims 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tremblay.

Claims 10 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 13 to incorporate subject matter from prior claim 10. In addition, new claims 24 and 25 correspond to the subject matter of allowable claim 12. In particular, claim 24 reflects claims 1 and 12, and claim 25 reflects claim 13 and 12.

Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe there to be any issues remaining which would prevent the present application from proceeding to allowance, please contact the below signed representative at (512) 853-8866 in order to expedite a resolution.

CONCLUSION

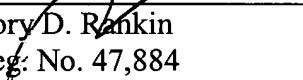
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6000-00800/RDR.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



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